

3. (Amended) A hematopoietic cell expansion medium comprising a cell growth medium, flt3-ligand and G-CSF, wherein the flt3-ligand binds flt3 and is in an amount sufficient to cause hematopoietic cell expansion.

4. (Amended) A hematopoietic cell expansion medium comprising cell growth medium, flt3-ligand and GM-CSF, wherein the flt3-ligand binds flt3 and is in an amount sufficient to cause hematopoietic cell expansion.

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5. (Amended) A hematopoietic cell expansion medium comprising cell growth medium, flt3-ligand and SF, wherein the flt3-ligand binds flt3 and is in an amount sufficient to cause hematopoietic cell expansion.

6. (Amended) A hematopoietic cell expansion medium comprising cell growth medium, flt3-ligand and EPO, wherein the flt3-ligand binds flt3 and is in an amount sufficient to cause hematopoietic cell expansion.

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7. (Amended) A hematopoietic cell expansion medium comprising cell growth medium, flt3-ligand and a GM-CSF/IL-3 fusion protein, wherein the flt3-ligand binds flt3 and is in an amount sufficient to cause hematopoietic cell expansion.

8. (Amended) A hematopoietic cell expansion medium comprising cell growth medium, flt3-ligand and IL-6, wherein the flt3-ligand binds flt3 and is in an amount sufficient to cause hematopoietic cell expansion.

9. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 1, wherein the flt3-ligand comprises recombinant human flt3-ligand.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the flt3-ligand comprises recombinant human flt3-ligand.

11. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 3, wherein the flt3-ligand comprises recombinant human flt3-ligand.

12. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 4, wherein the flt3-ligand comprises recombinant human flt3-ligand.

13. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 5, wherein the flt3-ligand comprises recombinant human flt3-ligand.

14. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 6, wherein the flt3-ligand comprises recombinant human flt3-ligand.

15. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 7, wherein the flt3-ligand comprises recombinant human flt3-ligand.

16. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 8, wherein the flt3-ligand comprises recombinant human flt3-ligand.

17. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 1, further comprising a cellular growth factor.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the cells are further contacted with a cellular growth factor.

19. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 1, wherein the flt3-ligand is selected from the group consisting of a soluble polypeptide comprising amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6 and a soluble polypeptide capable of binding flt3 that comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6.

20. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the flt3-ligand is selected from the group consisting of a soluble polypeptide comprising amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6 and a soluble polypeptide capable of binding flt3 that comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6.

21. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 3, wherein the flt3-ligand is selected from the group consisting of a soluble polypeptide comprising amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6 and a soluble polypeptide capable of binding flt3 that

comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6.

22. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 4, wherein the flt3-ligand is selected from the group consisting of a soluble polypeptide comprising amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6 and a soluble polypeptide capable of binding flt3 that comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6.

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23. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 5, wherein the flt3-ligand is selected from the group consisting of a soluble polypeptide comprising amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6 and a soluble polypeptide capable of binding flt3 that comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6.

24. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 6, wherein the flt3-ligand is selected from the group consisting of a soluble polypeptide comprising amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6 and a soluble polypeptide capable of binding flt3 that comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6.

25. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 7, wherein the flt3-ligand is selected from the group consisting of a soluble polypeptide comprising amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6 and a soluble polypeptide capable of binding flt3 that comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6.

26. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 8, wherein the flt3-ligand is selected from the group consisting of a soluble polypeptide comprising amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6 and a soluble polypeptide capable of binding flt3 that comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6.

27. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 17, wherein the flt3-ligand comprises recombinant human flt3-ligand.

28. (Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the flt3-ligand comprises recombinant human flt3-ligand.

29. (Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 17, wherein the flt3-ligand is selected from the group consisting of a soluble polypeptide comprising amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6 and a soluble polypeptide capable of binding flt3 that comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the flt3-ligand is selected from the group consisting of a soluble polypeptide comprising amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6 and a soluble polypeptide capable of binding flt3 that comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. All pending claims have been amended to specify "medium" rather than "media." The claims have been amended such that the term "flt3-ligand" is used consistently throughout the claims. Claims 1-8, 19-26, 29 and 30 have been amended to specify that the flt3-ligand has the capacity of binding to flt3. Support may be found in the specification at page 7, lines 18-35. Claims 3-8 have been amended to specify that the flt3-ligand is administered in an amount sufficient to cause hematopoietic cell expansion. Support may be found, for example, in originally filed claims 1 and 2. Claims 9-16, 27 and 28 have been amended to clarify that the flt3-ligand comprises recombinant human flt3-ligand. The phrase "in an amount sufficient to cause hematopoietic cell expansion" has been deleted from claims 17 and 18 to remedy any confusion. Applicants urge that the above amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed and therefore do not constitute new matter.

Following the amendments, claims 1-30 are pending in the application with claims 1-8 being in independent format.